

MINUTES OF DELIBERATIVE SESSION FEBRUARY 02, 2008

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Laura Buono, at 9:10 AM at the Center Woods Elementary School. The Moderator opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, followed by the Town Clerk reading Weare's 2007 deceased residents. The reading was followed with a moment of silence.

The Moderator then read the rules of the meeting, including the purse placed at the front of the room. The purse is for voters that get out of order or don't listen, and repeat the same question. They have to pay one dollar. All voters must check in with the Supervisors and be given an orange card in order to vote. Any non-voters must sit in the back of the room at the tables and are asked not to partake in voice votes.

The Moderator introduced the people at the front of the room. The Moderator asked if no objection that two people present, that are not voters, would like to speak or are called upon to do so, Chip Meany and Attorney Walter Mitchell be granted that privilege. There were no objections and they were granted permission to speak.

Mr. Matt Esenwine and his daughters provided snacks, drinks and pizza for the attendees. The profits would go to the 8th grade class trip. Thank you for doing that for us.

The Moderator stated we would begin with Article 9 as Article 1-8 cannot be changed at this session.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 9:

Shall the Town raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000.00) for the purpose of constructing a new Public Works (Highway Department) and Transfer Station/Recycling facility and to authorize the issuance of not more than Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000.00) in bonds and/or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) to finance the project and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate, issue, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof? (3/5-ballot vote required).

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Selectman Kurk moved as written. Seconded by Evelyn Connor.

Joe Fiala moved to amend the Article to increase the dollar amount to \$975,000; George Malette seconded the motion. Laura Buono recognized Heleen Kurk to speak. Selectman Kurk presented the current building in a PowerPoint presentation. Her main points

were issues with the electrical, leakage, as well as no ventilation, drains or sprinklers also no safe welding area. The building has been patched to make due for years. She covered the unsafe issues and why they were unsafe. The new building would place all four areas under one building. The recycling would be included and allow for better traffic flow. The saving is approximately \$687,000.00 over the ten year time period.

She pointed out that this is a high priority for safety and savings for the Town. A vote was taken on the amendment. The vote was unanimous in favor. Selectman Kurk then turned the presentation over to Carl Knapp, Public Works Director. Mr. Knapp explained that this project came up quickly but had certainly been thought of for some time. He explained the benefits of the new building, life expectancy of vehicles, recycling, etc.

Courtney Belanger expressed his support for this Article.

George Malette, a member of the Building Committee pointed out that the savings doesn't stop at the end of 10 years it continues and this could fully pay for itself over time. Mr. Malette stated that it makes sense for efficiency as well.

Joe Fiala explained the reason for the increase was, after researching the cost of building the Safety Complex, they want to make sure they would have sufficient funds for the project. The new building is simply a shell with some office space. He agreed that it did come up quickly but is a priority.

Forrest Esenwine stated it was a lot of money, as strange as it sounds, this expenditure is needed in order to save money. He supports the project and its needed not just for the department personnel, but the residents as well.

Chris Hague, Chairman of the Joint Loss Management Committee, which is a Safety Committee required by the State, has looked at the Highway Building and should the Town decide not to support the building the Labor Board can send an inspector out to review it and possibly close it down.

Frank Campana stated that he had two questions and a comment. First, he would like to know the tax impact on the \$975,000. Tom Clow stated that he has the payments for the \$900K which would be 0.14 cents for the first year and going to 0.10 cents the last year. Second, a few years back one building in Town had a buried tank that D.E.S. had a concern with. This proposal includes a wash bay; he was wondering what type of on going expense might be incurred and what type of issues that D.E.S. might have? Lastly, his comment is that this bond and the next bond will both effect the tax rate. He would like a total tax impact on the whole Warrant including all the Articles.

Carl Knapp responded that the issue was with the South Weare Fire Station. The tank was taking on groundwater and was always full. There were two tanks and one has been removed. This new wash bay he is proposing has a sealed tank and the plan in-

cludes a way to catch the oil and grease in this new proposal as well.

Harry Brown asked if the Town has been cited for the electrical problems. If not, would we still be covered if a fire were to break out? How does it affect our present insurance, if God forbid we should have a fire? The Moderator explained that was not the subject matter. Mr. Brown had another question, which was, how did you arrive at \$40,000 savings on payroll, that sounds like an awful lot of people standing around. Mr. Knapp explained that when the employees are activated they have to start the trucks and allow them to warm up, get the hydraulics going and then have to get in line to load up. This time equated over 12 guys, every storm and over several years comes up to a large number. He felt that having the equipment inside the facility they could be loaded ready to go.

Don Burke, informed the residents that there is a floor plan of the proposed building over on the wall that could answer a lot of questions. Mr. Burke also pointed out that this building is being built without a general contractor which is a large savings.

Jan Snyder added that on a financial stand point when the payment amounts were quoted the rate was in the low 4's. The rates are going down and now the rate is in the high 3's.

Joe Fiala added that the cost of the building without a general contractor cuts approximately \$200,000 off the price.

Chuck Metcalf asked if there was a contingency plan in place if the Article fails.

Joe Fiala stated that later in the day there would be an Article for government buildings and if this Article failed those funds would be used to address some of the needs.

Eldon Townes asked if the demolition cost was figured into the cost. Mr. Knapp responded that the plan is to demolish the buildings and it would be separated.

Loren Clement asked if there was forethought to allow an expansion of this building. Will there be facilities for more recycling? Hazardous waste seems to be an issue, we have only one collection date and he felt it would be nice to see a safe place for items like this to be stored during the year. Mr. Knapp responded that the building has four extra spaces for additional vehicles. There is also ample space for recycling. NHDES has the jurisdiction for hazardous waste and they don't like to see it just sitting around.

Steve Najjar asked if this building is in the existing footprint and is there any delineation to where the Town Highway Department is and where the Town Forest begins. His concern is will the Town Forest be impacted. Mr. Knapp stated that the building will shift towards Merrill Road and the existing sheds. It will not get into the Town Forest and no trees will be impacted.

Richard Butt asked if anyone has calculated the man hours that will be done by the Highway Department and what work might suffer as a result of that. Mr. Knapp responded that they didn't include actual man-hours in the calculation. They are only doing the site work and demolition. They are not going to shut down to do this; they will be fitting it in between the other work.

Joe Fiala indicated the building would be erected fairly quickly and in a short period of time as it's a metal building.

A motion was made by Evelyn Connor to move the question and seconded by Ray Kelley. Vote in the affirmative to move the question. Moderator Buono read the Article as amended before a vote was taken. The Article will read as follows:

Shall the Town raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed Nine Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$975,000.00) for the purpose of constructing a new Public Works (Highway Department) and Transfer Station/Recycling facility and to authorize the issuance of not more than Nine Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$975,000.00) in bonds and/or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA:33) to finance the project and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate, issue, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof? (3/5-ballot vote required). The Moderator called for a voice vote. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

A motion was made by Heleen Kurk and seconded by Evelyn Connor to restrict reconsideration. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 10.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed One Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,250,000.00) for improvements at the Town's Bolton Field Memorial Complex and to authorize the issuance of not more than One Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,250,000.00) in bonds and/or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA:33) to finance the project and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate, issue, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof? (3/5-ballot vote required).

(Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Tom Clow moved the Article as read. Donna Osborne seconded the motion. Tom Reynolds, Chairman of Parks and Recreation provided those present a PowerPoint presentation on Bolton Field. Tom said the property was donated to the Town for the fields. They have had vehicle vandalism, driving on fields. Parking is a major problem as well as proper drainage for areas. The emergency vehicles have a problem accessing the

area. If this passed, it would be able to be a more secured area as well as allow us to host more events and tournaments.

Frank Campana asked what would be the tax impact of this. Selectman Clow responded that the first year's payment would have an impact of 0.20 cents. Mr. Campana explained that we are already starting out with \$0.34 cents for the first two Articles and we haven't gotten to the Operating Budget yet. Mr. Campana stated that there would be an overlap of carrying five bonds for a few years. He has a hard time supporting this. He has a suspicion things weren't done right at the start, which is why the price tag is what it is. He wanted to caution the taxpayers to think this through.

Terry Knowles asked if there has been any private money raised towards this project. If not why not? Secondly, she asked how improving security would help keep the Town from paying more for this.

Mr. Reynolds answered to improve security is to keep access off the fields. The plan is to install gates on the roadways that go down into the playing fields so that the cars, trucks, etc. will stay off the playing fields. There has been a great deal of the vandalism that the Town has had to pay to repair. This is how security would improve. No, there are no private funds that have been considered. When this field was done it was done to a minimum to get the Town the increased playing fields. There is still a lot that needs to be done. Parking is an issue, drainage is another issue. The proposal includes increasing parking, storm water drainage, seating, lights, concession stands, bathrooms, etc.

Harry Brown stated that Mr. Campana brought up a good point and maybe when the things were originally done they were only done half right. He wanted to know where is this money going to come from to finish.

Joe Fiala stated that the improved security is necessary because we can't just block the fields off because there is lawn care that needs to be done as well as to have emergency access if the need arises.

Forrest Esenwine stated that he has come to the conclusion this is the wrong time, the wrong place and the wrong amount. He didn't think that it should be on the Warrant because from what he has seen this is only a draft proposal.

Mr. Esenwine moved to amend the amount of this Article to \$0. A seconded was made to the motion.

Tom Clow stated that the Board of Selectmen is not recommending this Article based on a financial issue. Selectman Clow spoke in support of this plan. He felt that Parks and Recreation spent about \$13,000 to have a Master Plan done. In the past we have had organizations come forward to put up a concession stand/storage shed and were told

that they had to wait for a plan, now the plan has been done those issues can happen. He is not in favor of zeroing it out completely.

Loren Clement stated that if 0 were the number, before he would vote on that, he would like to find out what expenses are needed to make it adequate for medical access if the need arises.

Forrest Esenwine stated that he didn't speak to his motion as far as the plan quality. He has no certainty and no argument that the plan was done well. The issue he has is the scope of the work and the cost. He felt this was way too much for Weare. He felt it looked like Foxboro North.

Angela McConkey says that she supports this project in concept, because it's so essential to have a nucleus like this for their children. She supports the person or organizations that are willing to spend the effort of getting some of it done.

Terry Knowles opposes the amendment of \$0. She indicated that if the Town zeroes this out then Parks and Recreation or other organizations have no availability to apply for a Grant if they come available. Typically Grants need some sort of offsetting money for projects. She is not sure what the number is but she is not in favor of zero.

Tom Reynolds agreed with the majority present, it is a lot of money. They are looking to do this on a long-term issue, a lot had to do with costs. As far as the emergency vehicles access, there is no dedicated parking area for emergency access. He would like to see this go to the voters and let them decide.

Richard Butt stated that he doesn't support the amendment. He also feels that the Town should let the voters decide. The people should have the opportunity to vote.

Joe Fiala spoke against the amendment. There was a plan a couple of years ago that was put together for Chase Park. That plan got put on the shelf and it is still there today. There was \$13,000 of the taxpayers money spent on this and if this gets zeroed out this will probably go on the shelf next to the Chase Park plan. The Board of Selectmen supported putting the Article on the Warrant but it was the dollar amount that was not recommended.

John Lawton spoke against the amendment. There are Towns around that have nice facilities. Just because other Towns don't have this type of facility is not a reason to vote it down. He asked about having a CIP fund to do this.

Joe Fiala stated that the idea of a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) was thought about. There is a CIP fund but when the project was discussed with the CIP subcommittee the consensus was to have it brought forward as a whole project.

Craig Knowles asked if we vote no on the amendment is the full Article the amount that would appear on the ballot. Town Counsel Walter Mitchell responded that under the law the Article that is on the Warrant goes on unless the amendment is voted in favor of. If you vote no, it has no affect and the article would be back to the original wording. Bottom line, it will go on as it appears unless it is amended. Mr. Knowles stated that approximately 10-12 years ago he stood here for an Article for \$1M for bridges. The Town needs to have a pretty good plan in place for support.

Matt Esenwine asked what Parks and Recreation are doing with Chase Park after that study was done. They have major issues with drainage. Chuck Metcalf responded that it is sitting on a shelf.

Steve Najjar stated that he is undecided on the amendment. The Wood property and Bolton Field abutt. He wanted to know if this parking lot and roadway is going to be built for log trucks if they decide they want to do a logging operation on the Wood property because that is the only access. He asked how would they be assured winter access. The other thing Mr. Najjar wanted to mention is that this is a nice design but it doesn't look like it is the full plan because it doesn't show the boundary between the Bolton Field property and the Wood property. He wanted to be assured that this increased parking doesn't spill over into the Conservation property because that was not the intention. The last issue he had was winter access. This is a problem because winter access to the Wood property is only by Route 114 and anyone wanting to get to the property has to park at Route 114.

Chuck Metcalf stated that the parking area and roadway would be built to standards so when the paving is done it will be able to support the logging vehicles. Mr. Metcalf responded that the intent is to have gates installed on the access roads down to the fields and leave the access road open in the winter. Currently there is no protection during the winter so the gate is closed. The Highway Department would plow the access road and the parking lots after any storms are over, just like they do the cisterns now.

Jerry Little asked Mr. Clow to restate his position. Selectman Clow stated that he is not in favor of zeroing it out. He felt that the project is worthwhile and would like to see the taxpayers have the ability to vote on it.

Neal Kurk stated that he supports doing something at Bolton Field but he feels that this plan is built for a community like Bow and everyone that lives there drives a Mercedes. He felt that it needs to go back for another look. He also responded to the comment to

leave it up to the voters. SB2 is for the voters to set in favor of a motion or not. He does not feel this is affordable.

A motion was made by Evelyn Connor and seconded by Ray Kelley to move the question. The vote was unanimously in favor. The Moderator called for the vote to move the question. The vote was in favor to move the question.

A card vote was taken on the amended Article to zero out the amount. Vote: Yes 45 – No 30-. The amended Article passed to be zeroed out.

The Moderator recognized Ms. King.

Valerie King asked to amend the Article to change the amount to \$435,000, which would cover the parking and drainage. A seconded by Wendy Clark. The Moderator recognized Ms. King to speak to her motion. She stated that the price was given in the amount of \$435,000 from the engineer to cover the increased parking and to fix the storm water drainage. Basically the first phase.

Joe Fiala stated that he would oppose this amendment because he thinks that this should go back to the Parks and Recreation Committee and it should be reevaluated. He also felt it was not enough money to go for a bond.

Forrest Esenwine felt this amendment was inappropriate.

Melanie Gordon spoke in favor of this amendment. It would allow something to be done. She felt it would allow the other organizations a chance to possibly come forward with some projects that could reduce the amount to finish the project. These funds would be for phase one.

Chuck Metcalf stated that what this does is to put it back to the voters to address the drainage and parking. There will be access for emergency vehicles. He is in favor of the amendment.

Matt Esenwine stated that the problem with the amendment is that if the Town passes this it is only partial funding. He felt that enough research has been done on fund raising. He is opposed to this amendment. Then he asked to move the question, motion seconded by Ray Kelley.

The Moderator stated that Mr. Butt was already in line so she was going to allow him to speak and then the question will be moved.

Richard Butt asked if the funds had to be bonded or not as he felt it was too small a dollar amount to go for a bond. Moderator Buono responded that the amendment is to

change the amount only. There is no mention of changing the wording regarding the bonding. Mr. Butt stated that he speaks in favor of the amendment.

Attorney Mitchell stated once this Article is approved it will be up to the Selectmen to make the decision as to borrowing from a bond or a bank.

Matt Esenwine made a motion to move the question; Forrest Esenwine seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. A card vote was taken and the amendment passed by: **Yes: 47 No: 20.**

Richard Butt then asked if the Board of Selectmen would take a revote on their recommendation. Selectman Clow stated that they would be doing that on Monday evening.

Forrest Esenwine stated for the record the vote that was just taken is for draft plan.

Chuck Metcalf stated that there was a draft plan given to the Town early in the process but this plan that is on the wall and what is being voted on is the final plan and he would like it noted so. He is not sure what plan Mr. Esenwine might be talking about, but this plan is the final plan.

Matt Esenwine stated that because the issue has to do with a bond, is it prudent to leave the rest of the Article as written, meaning should it be a bond or should it be changed to not bond it.

Attorney Mitchell stated if we change the manner of funding it will have a greater tax impact in one year than if done as a bond.

Tom Clow said a simple majority would pass it if funding manner changed. Leave it as written and it will still require the 3/5ths vote to pass as a bond or a loan.

Jerry Little stated he believes the language showing doesn't tell us what we are buying for the \$435,000. He would like to make the following amendment:

Shall the Town raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed Four Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$435,000.00) for improvements at the Town's Bolton Field Memorial Complex for the purpose of: Increasing parking capacity, develop a vehicle and pedestrian management plan, develop a formal storm water management system and to authorize the issuance of not more than Four Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$435,000.00) in bonds and/or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) to finance the project and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate, issue, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof? (3/5-ballot vote required).

The Moderator asked Mr. Little to put his request in writing. There was a seconded by Tom Reynolds for the amendment. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Tom Clow stated the he felt that this has been talked about long enough and he made a motion to move the question. A seconded by Evelyn Connor. Vote: All in favor. Moderator then asked for a vote on the Article as amended. The card vote was: **Yes: 43 No:36** The Article will appear as amended by Mr. Little.

A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration on this Article. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 11.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate, as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by special Warrant Articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the Warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Four Million Six Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars (\$4,658,578.00)? Should this Article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be Four Million Five Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$4,529,870.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised Operating Budget only.

	Department	Proposed	Default
A	TOWN OFFICERS SALARIES	\$ 21,533.00	\$ 21,533.00
B	TOWN OFFICERS EXPENSES	\$ 23,350.00	\$ 23,564.00
C	ELECTIONS & REGISTRATIONS	\$ 20,400.00	\$ 20,400.00
D	TAX COLLECTOR	\$ 41,034.00	\$ 39,101.00
E	FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
F	ASSESSING OFFICE	\$ 146,512.00	\$ 145,712.00
G	LEGAL FEES	\$ 59,000.00	\$ 54,000.00
H	FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR	\$ 71,668.00	\$ 71,537.00
I	TOWN CLERKS OFFICE	\$ 61,901.00	\$ 60,941.00
J	TOWN CLERK'S SALARY AND BENEFITS	\$ 56,132.00	\$ 56,132.00
K	SELECTMAN'S OFFICE	\$ 156,299.00	\$ 156,299.00
L	CABLE COMMITTEE	\$ 3,055.00	\$ 4,440.00
M	TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS	\$ 85.00	\$ 85.00
N	LAND USE	\$ 75,830.00	\$ 71,902.00
O	GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	\$ 61,931.00	\$ 62,031.00
P	CEMETERIES	\$ 31,995.00	\$ 31,995.00
Q	INSURANCE	\$ 114,369.00	\$ 114,369.00
R	ADVERTISEMENTS AND DUES	\$ 7,995.00	\$ 7,995.00

S	POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$1,199,308.00	\$ 1,144,353.00
T	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
U	FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 267,739.00	\$ 253,288.00
V	BUILDING DEPT/ CODE ENFORCEMENT	\$ 89,881.00	\$ 88,611.00
W	FOREST FIRES	\$ 3,660.00	\$ 3,660.00
X	TOWN MAINT / HIGHWAY DEPT	\$1,210,217.00	\$ 1,171,136.00
Y	STREET LIGHTING	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00
Z	TRANSFER STATION	\$ 326,094.00	\$ 339,493.00
A	SEWER DEPARTMENT	\$ 16,160.00	\$ 14,842.00
B	WATER DEPARTMENT	\$ 2,646.00	\$ 2,646.00
C	ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 16,982.00
D	HEALTH OFFICER	\$ 4,711.00	\$ 4,711.00
E	HUMAN SERVICES	\$ 49,842.00	\$ 49,312.00
F	PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 42,275.00	\$ 39,450.00
G	LIBRARY	\$ 193,727.00	\$ 180,781.00
H	PATRIOTIC PURPOSE	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
I	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$ 2,017.00	\$ 1,357.00
J	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
K	DEBT SERVICE	\$ 267,952.00	\$ 267,952.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 4,658,578.00	\$ 4,529,870.00
LESS ANTICIPATED REVENUE	\$ 2,598,413.00	
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAX	\$ 2,060,165.00	
DIVIDED BY VALUATION/1000	\$ 899,431.00	
ANTICIPATED TAX IMPACT	\$ 2.29	

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Tom Clow moved the Article as written and a second was made. Selectman Clow felt the Board feels that this is the most important Article on the Warrant. Weare doesn't have a history of passing budgets. Since 1997, which is when the Town first became a SB2 Town, only 2 out of 11 Budgets got passed. You might say two and one half Budgets passed because in 2006 \$100,000.00 was cut from the Budget before the Deliberative Session. The increases are beyond our control. The price increases are mainly due to the fuel, salt, heating oil, electricity, etc. Our largest increase is to deal with fuel costs. He strongly encouraged the support of this Article. Being on a Default Budget has caught up with us. We have an overwhelming need to support local government and pass this Article.

Chris Hague wanted to clarify the economic forecast is better than everyone is predicting.

Courtney Belanger expressed his support of this Budget.

Frank Campana asked if the fuel, electricity, salt and heating oil amounts that have been increased are in the default and now considered contracted amounts. He wanted to remind the Board the anticipated tax increase over last year if all the Articles pass.

Jan Snyder wanted to clarify the tax impact as it is compare to 2007.

Richard Butt stated that a significant increase in the proposed and default was the fuel. The increase for just that one item is about \$100,000. He questioned the amount of fuel used. He asked what the Board of Selectmen has done to conserve the amount of fuel used.

The new Highway Garage will help because vehicles would be starting up in a heated garage. Local government center said to increase fuel numbers.

Without any further comments or questions, Article 11 will appear as written on the ballot.

The Moderator moves on to read ARTICLE 12:

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$426,934.00) to be added and allocated to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds as shown in the chart below?

CEMETERY CONSTRUCTION FUND	\$ 25,500.00
FIRE & RESCUE COMMUNICATION FUND	\$ 30,000.00
LIBRARY-COMPUTER REPLACEMENT FUND	\$ 2,434.00
PUBLIC WORKS TRUCK & EQUIPMENT FUND	\$ 210,000.00
TRANSFER STATION TRASH COMPACTOR REPLACEMENT	\$ 37,000.00
TRANSFER STATION EQUIPMENT FUND	\$ 10,000.00
PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY COMMUNICATION FUND	\$ 10,000.00
RECREATION DEVELOPMENT & IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 7,000.00
POLICE COMMUNICATION FUND	\$ 30,000.00
POLICE CRUISER FUND	\$ 65,000.00

(All the items listed in this Article are part of the Town's Capital Improvement Program).

Anticipated tax impact= \$ 0.48

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Tom Clow stated the he would like to make an amendment to this Article. He would like to amend the names of a few of the Capital Reserve funds. The reason being that if the Town votes on these funds and they are not exactly worded as the original fund was set up the transfer can not be made. The following is the amendment:

CEMETERY CONSTRUCTION FUND	\$ 25,500.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION FUND	\$ 30,000.00
LIBRARY-COMPUTER REPLACEMENT FUND	\$ 2,434.00
HIGHWAY TRUCK & EQUIPMENT FUND	\$ 210,000.00
TRASH COMPACTOR REPLACEMENT	\$ 37,000.00
TRANSFER STATION EQUIPMENT FUND	\$ 10,000.00
HIGHWAY COMMUNICATION FUND	\$ 10,000.00
RECREATION DEVELOPMENT & IMPROVE- MENT FUND	\$ 7,000.00
POLICE COMMUNICATION FUND	\$ 30,000.00
POLICE CRUISER FUND	\$ 65,000.00

This amendment makes no change to the intent or the funding. A second was made for the amendment. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Loren Clement asked what the \$7,000 was going to be used for under the Recreation Development and Improvement Fund. Moderator Buono reminded those present that there were several handouts on a table. Tom Clow responded that this is the last amount of money needed to complete the tennis court refurbishing.

Mr. Clow spoke about the Capital Improvement Program to project the needs over ten years. The CIP Board makes recommendations. Selectman Clow said the Board encourages the support of this Article to keep up with the town needs.

Being there were no further questions or comments, Article 12 will appear as amended.

Evelyn Connor motioned to restrict reconsideration on Articles 11 & 12. Heleen Kurk seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The Moderator moved to ARTICLE 13.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate Two Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$286,500.00) to be placed in the previously established Government Buildings and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund?

Anticipated tax impact= \$0.32

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Joe Fiala moved the Article as written. The motion was seconded. Selectmen Fiala was recognized to speak to this Article.

Joe Fiala stated that this total represents a list of projects to various Town buildings that need to be done. This was presented to the CIP subcommittee, where it didn't represent

one project and it was considered maintenance, it was not included in the rest of the CIP items in Article 12. Some of the larger projects in this amount include:

Emergency repair reserve money (\$20,000); yearly maintenance money (\$25,000); Town Office building (\$40,000); Town Hall Roof (\$25,000); Stone Memorial Building (\$110,000) the majority of this money is for a new copper roof; Clinton Grove Academy (\$28,000); Horse sheds (\$8,000); Library (\$18,500) and Gazebo (\$12,000).

George Malette spoke in favor of the Article. He said our infrastructure is failing. He spoke of the location of the needs and stated the longer we let it go the more it will cost..

Sherry Burdick. President of the Historical Society, also spoke in support of this Article.

Being there were no further questions or comments, Article 13 will appear as written.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 14.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$390,000.00) for road reconstruction and resurfacing of roads? Of the \$390,000.00, the sum of Two Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars and Forty-Five Cents (\$238,572.45) would be received from Highway Block Grant Funds from the State of New Hampshire (Pursuant to RSA 235) with One Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents (\$151,427.55) to be raised by taxation.

Anticipated tax impact= \$0.17

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Carl Knapp moved the Article as written. Mrs. Kurk made a second. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Mr. Knapp stated that this Article appears on the Warrant each year. This is the amount of money we receive from the State of NH and it is used for various road projects in Town.

Being there were no further questions or comments, Article 14 will appear as written.

A motion was made by Ms. Connor to restrict reconsideration for Articles 13 and 14. Seconded by Mrs. Kurk. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 15.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) to cover the costs of the Town's participation in one (1) local Household Hazardous Waste Collection in 2008? This Warrant Article has been designated by the Board of Selectmen as a Special Warrant Article so that the funds, if approved, may not be transferred for any other purposes.

Anticipated tax impact = \$0.007

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Carl Knapp moved the Article as written. Mrs. Kurk made a second. Mr. Knapp was recognized to speak to his motion.

Mr. Knapp stated that this Article also appears on the Warrant each year. This is the amount of money needed to hold one Household Hazardous Waste day to allow residents to dispose of items that can't be disposed of regularly during the year at the Transfer Station.

Being there were no further questions or comments, Article 15 will appear as written.

The Moderator moved on to read Article 16.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) to have a Town Buildings Needs Assessment conducted to evaluate the current condition of Town facilities and to anticipate and plan for the future needs of the Town and how to meet those needs, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the transfer of this amount from the undesignated fund balance as of December 31, 2007? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the needs assessment is completed or by December 31, 2010, whichever is sooner. (Majority vote required).

Anticipated tax impact = \$0.00

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Joe Fiala moved the Article as written. A second was made. Mr. Fiala was recognized to speak to his motion.

Joe Fiala stated that this is the same Article that we proposed last year which failed. This appropriation is something that really needs to pass. The Town needs special guidance for best use of space for Town Office Building and Town Hall. This would allow the Town to hire a professional to look at the specific needs and let us know what those needs are. There is some tax impact because it is coming from the General Fund, and we've already been taxed on the money in the General Fund.

George Malette stated that this money mainly focuses on two buildings, the Town Hall and the Town Office Building. Town Hall needs to see if the trusts have problems and how can we make use of the second floor. In the Town Office Building every depart-

ment should be assessed for the best way to make changes and a space needs assessment.

Forrest Esenwine felt it was a necessary expenditure. He asked what the current balance in the undesignated fund is. Joe Fiala responded approximately \$1.3 Million. Mr. Esenwine asked if there are any other Articles in the rest of the Warrant to be funded from there because he did not want it to go too low.. Mr. Fiala responded, no.

Frank Campana stated that last year in 2007 the Board had to borrow money twice to pay bills Tax Anticipation loan. He wants to know how the Town went from being in debt to now having \$35K to throw to this Article.

Tom Clow responded that it had to do with cash flow for borrowing. It also had to do with an overpayment that was made to the school that was later returned by the school. Had that not happened the borrowing could have probably been only once.

Mr. Campana stated that he realizes the timing but back in the beginning of September when the tax rate was set, it came to the point where the Board decides how much money gets returned to the taxpayers to reduce taxes. There was discussion of some \$39K as a result of the voting of last March. Some of that money was spent so there was only \$24K left. Where did this money come from to offset this Article. The opinion was solicited for the \$24K and the Deputy Treasurer's comment was that she wouldn't return any of it. Now some three months later the Board felt comfortable enough to use \$35K. He asked if they asked the Deputy Treasurer for her approval to use this or not. Mr. Clow responded, no they didn't ask the Deputy Treasurer.

Betty Straw felt that it might be helpful if they had some history of the Town Hall. She wanted to be brief. She clarified the Town Hall was built in 1838. At this point Moderator Buono interrupted and asked if the discussion had to do with this Article. Mrs. Straw responded that some history of the Town Hall might help to understand this need.

Being there were no further questions or comments, Article 16 will appear as written.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration on Articles 15 & 16 by Evelyn Connor and seconded by Heleen Kurk. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 17.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Eighty-Five Dollars (\$80,085.00) to hire two (2) new full-time Fire Fighter / EMT's to cover eight (8) hours per day during the week Monday – Friday ? The \$80,085.00 includes wages, benefits, equipment, uniforms and training to cover **the last 6 months of this fiscal year (2008).**

If approved, future funding for this position will be included in and become a part of the Fire/Ambulance Department Operating Budget on a full fiscal year (12 months) basis.

Anticipated tax impact = \$0.09

(Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Fire Chief Richards was recognized to speak on this. Chief Richards moved the Article as written. It was seconded.

Chief Richards stated that this is the fourth time this has been placed before the Town. The reason being is that the daytime hours are limited. The mutual aid Towns have expressed that they are staffing for their Towns and would like us to staff ours, particularly during the day, when volunteers are limited.

Courtney Belanger spoke in favor of this Article. He felt the Town might be able to profit from this by responding to other Towns.

Richard Butt questioned the dollar amount and asked that if it were fair to consider that if you double this amount it would be for a full year. Chief Richards stated yes, doubling would be a close figure for a year. The dollar amount includes the wages and benefits uniforms and training.

Evelyn Connor stated that she is in favor of this Article but wanted to know if this replaces any part of the expenses in the budget. The on call personnel would not have to respond to a call so that should be a savings in the budget. Chief Richards responded, no. Ms. Connor asked if any volunteers that happen to be around and respond to a call during the day, will they be sent home because the fulltime personnel would already be paid for that. Chief

Richards stated that is something that they will have to talk about and work out so at this time he is not sure how all the details will work. Chief Richards stated that he has three letters from mutual aid Towns supporting this Article and he wants to make them part of the record.

Forrest Esenwine asked if we pay for mutual aid. Chief Richards responded, no, they responded if called upon because of the Mutual Aid Agreement.

John Lawton questions the anticipated tax impact of \$0.09 and asked if there was any revenue that could be included as an offset. Tom Clow responded that the impact is based on using the 2007 assessment, plus 1%. Chief Richards answered that no it does not take into account any anticipated revenue.

Diane Dearborn wondered how often do we have mutual aid come into Town. Chief Richards stated that in 2007 based on a Sunday to Sunday, 5 AM to 5 PM week the number was 38 responded, during the day there were 28 calls.

Being there were no further questions or comments, Article 17 will appear as written.

A motion was made by Ms. Connor to restrict reconsideration on Article 17. Seconded by Donna Osborne. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 18.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Three Thousand Twenty-Three Dollars (\$23,023.00) to provide funding to staff the Ambulance Department during Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays for eight hours per day with two EMTs using present staff? The \$23,023.00 includes wages to cover **the last 6 months of this fiscal year (2008)**. If approved, future funding for this position will be included in and become a part of the Fire/Ambulance Department Operating Budgets on a full fiscal year (12 months) basis.

Anticipated tax impact= \$0.03

(Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Chief Richards moved the Article as written. A seconded by Ms. Connor. Chief Richards was recognized to speak to his motion.

Chief Richards stated that this Article was originally part of Article 17 but was separated by Board of Selectmen. The Board of Firewards felt that it should have been part of the other Article making it a seven-day a week position, but the Board of Selectmen separated them into two Articles.

Joe Fiala stated that he felt it should be two separate Articles because one was for a firefighter and the other was for an ambulance person and should be separate.

Chris Hague asked what the employees will be doing when they are not responding. Chief Richards stated that their main objective would be to do some maintenance and other things around the Safety Complex. This would have to all be talked about if it gets approved.

Being there were no further questions or comments, Article 18 will appear as written.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration of Article 18 made by Ms. Connor. Selectman Kurk seconded the Motion. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read Article 19.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Two Thousand Dollars (\$92,000.00) for the purpose of hiring two (2) additional full-time Weare Police Offi-

cers? The above stated amount will cover a **nine-month cost** of salary, benefits, uniforms, equipment and training. If approved, future funding for this position will be included in and become a part of the Weare Police Department operating budget on a full fiscal year (12 months) basis.

Anticipated tax impact= \$0.10

(Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Chief Begin moved the Article as written. A second was made.

Chief Begin stated that this is nothing new. The first year he was elected the Department received support and two officers were added. He had indicated at that time that it wasn't going to be the end. Chief Begin then went through a PowerPoint presentation showing the calls for the month; calls for service by shift; etc. The calls for service by shift have increased now because they have gone to 24-hour coverage. The arrests are up 335 to 458 over the past year. 36.7% increase of total arrests from 2006 to 2007. He stated that he didn't want to take up a great deal of time today and offered anyone that is interested in further discussing this he is in his office. We currently have 9 officers and according to the Bartel Formula service it indicates that our Town needs 14. Chief Begin explained that it takes 30-40 minutes to respond. This morning the Officer was off on an accident and another call came in it took about an hour. Chief Begin then put the 0.10 cents (tax impact) into prospective, he brings this Dunkin Donuts coffee cup. This cup of coffee costs \$2.10 and if everyone gives up one large Dunkin Donuts coffee a month for a year it would more than pay for the Officers.

Courtney Belanger spoke in support of this Article.

Joe Fiala stated that he would like to speak on this Article and the two prior Articles. He voted to recommend these three because he felt it goes to life safety and how can you put the Town's safety at risk.

Frank Campana appreciated what Mr. Fiala says but if true it is only 0.10 cents added onto everything else, it all adds up. We haven't even gotten to the school budgets yet.

Terry Knowles stated that if Chief Begin wants to have 14 total Officers, she has been in the Safety Complex and the current staff stumbles over each other, where are we going to put them. Chief Begin stated that the patrol guys are mostly in their cruisers. The new software allows them to do the majority of their paperwork in the cruiser.

Being there were no further questions or comments, Article 19 will appear as written.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration on Article 19 by Ms. Connor. Selectmen Kurk made a second. Vote: unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 20.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$3,700) for the purpose of making repairs to walkways and improvements to the fire alarm system as cited in the 2006 safety inspection, and to repair masonry on the exterior of the Weare Public Library, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the transfer of this amount from the undesignated fund balance as of December 31, 2007? This Warrant Article has been designated by the Board of Selectmen as a Special Warrant Article so that the funds, if approved, shall be non-lapsing and may not be transferred for any other purposes.

Anticipated tax impact= \$0.00

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Ray Kelly moved the Article as written. Chris Hague seconded the motion.

Mr. Kelly stated that this is a project that was started last year and didn't get finished. There is no cost for this Article as there are unused funds to be used to continue the repair work on the sidewalk.

Courtney Belanger stated that he supports this Article because there is no tax impact.

Being there were no further questions or comments, Article 20 will appear as written.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration on Article 20 by Heleen Kurk and a second by Evelyn Connor. Vote: unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read Article 21.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$54,868.00) needed to implement a new personnel pay scale for full and part-time Town employee positions, exclusive of Fire Department personnel, stipended personnel, and those positions subject to a collective bargaining (labor union) agreement or other contracts? If approved this amount will cover nine months of this fiscal year 2008 and will be allocated among the positions subject to this new pay scale and become part of future Operating Budgets on a full fiscal year basis.

Anticipated tax impact = \$0.06

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Tom Clow moved to amend the Article to change the dollar amount to \$57,028.00. Heleen Kurk made a second. Mr. Clow was recognized to speak to his motion.

Selectman Clow stated that the reason for the amendment was there was some calculation errors made due to 40 weeks versus 39 weeks. Mr. Clow further explained that the proposed Operating Budget has no pay raises except for the Police that are under contract. The Benefit Review Committee met together for approximately one year, gathering information to come up with a reasonable step scale that would provide some equity among positions. The Board of Selectmen voted to recommend this Article. This impacts 44 positions in Town. He does not feel this is an unreasonable request.

Forrest Esenwine asked if the Town votes not to approve this, then there is no money for the employees. Tom Clow responded that the wages at the current level are in the Operating Budget but no increases are in the Operating Budget. The increases are addressed under this Article.

Richard Butt stated that the Board has made statements previously that it is a certain percent of increases and this doesn't state that. He asked what the annual percentage rate was going to be and the costs associated with it. Mr. Clow responded that each employee is different. The range is from zero up to 18.4%, it varies. The other costs associated with this number are also included.

Selectmen Fiala said we have had a turnover in highway employees due to higher pay scale in similar communities.

Mr. Butt asked how many employees have left. Mr. Knapp responded three in the last couple of years.

Chris Hague said when she was in the process of interviewing for the Library those potential employees that were disqualified because of the wages being too low.

Jan Snyder commented that some of the current wages appear low.

The Moderator called for a vote. The vote was in the affirmative. Moderator asked if any further discussion or amendments.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 21 will appear on the ballot as amended.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration on Article 21 by Evelyn . A second was made Ms. Kurk. Vote: unanimous in favor.

At this point in the Deliberative Session a 15-minute recess was taken for lunch.

The Moderator called the meeting back to order and read **ARTICLE 22.**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for Cemetery improvements? This sum to be withdrawn from Cemetery Trust Funds Cy Pres Account.

Anticipated tax impact = \$0.00

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Don Burke moved the Article as written. Ms. Connor made a second.

Mr. Burke explained that this is an Article that is on the ballot year after year to allow the Cemetery Trustees to spend the funds.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 22 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 23.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing fireworks for the 2008 Weare Patriotic Celebration? This Warrant Article has been designated by the Board of Selectmen as a Special Warrant Article so that the funds, if approved, may not be transferred for any other purposes.

Anticipated tax impact = \$0.007

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Donna Osborne moved the Article as written. Ms. Connor made a second. Selectman Osborne was recognized to speak to her motion.

Selectman Osborne explained that this Article is paid directly to Atlas for fireworks. Evelyn Connor stated that other money that is taken in from the various vendors goes towards paying for entertainment in the parade.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 23 will appear as written.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration on Articles 22 & 23 by Ms. Connor and second was made by Mrs. Osborne. Vote: unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 24

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the purpose of purchasing Conservation Easements in the name of the Piscataquog Watershed Association on approximately 175 acres in the Melvin Valley Area? The Town will have an executory interest and enforcement rights in these Conservation Easements.

Anticipated tax impact = \$0.22

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Steve Najjar moved the Article as written. Pat Myers made a second. .

Mr. Najjar was recognized to speak to his motion. Mr. Najjar explained that the purpose of this Article is the balance of funds are needed to purchase easements on two parcels. The first parcel consists of 81 acres and it is owned by Rod Wilson. The cost for the easement on the 81 acres is \$244,000. The abutting property consists of 70 acres owned by Shawn and Denise Hawkes. The cost for this easement on 70 acres is \$300,000. In terms of the actual transfer they will remain the owners of the property but there will never be any building allowed. These two easements connect to the Wood property and some other protected land so this will be a block of approximately 500 acres for wildlife conservation. By purchasing these easements it will be removing 25-27 house lots and it will be conserved. The remainder of the funds will come from the conservation fund. LCHIP was applied for but was not funded. Steve Najjar said that this is what stabilizes the town's tax rate by conserving the land use.

Forrest Esenwine asked what is the total cost of this project. Mr. Najjar responded the Hawkes easement is \$300,000, the Wilson easement is \$244,000 and PWA has a monitoring fee of \$25,000, so the Town will be getting approximately 175 acres for \$569,000.

Terry Knowles stated that one of the private sources for this purchase is the Mildred Hall Trust and it is being considered by them and she would recommend this purchase to the Selectmen.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 24 will appear as written.

Ms. Connor made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 24. Selectman Kurk seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 25.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (30,000.00) to be placed in the Community Access TV Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? This is the amount anticipated to be received from the Cable Franchise Agreement with Comcast as a capital payment for the purchase of Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) access equipment. The amount deposited into the Community Access TV Equipment Fund will not exceed the amount of money actually received from the Cable Franchise Agreement with Comcast.

Anticipated tax impact = \$0.00

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Donna Osborne moved the Article as written. Mr. Ottery made a second. The Moderator recognized Will Ottery to speak to this Article. Mr. Ottery stated that this is the first time that an official renewal has been signed for a length of time. A great deal of negotiations went into preparing this renewal. This \$30,000 is in the renewal agreement to be used specifically for the purchase of access equipment.

Richard Butt asked why the Article is on the Warrant. Mr. Butt indicated that the Board of Selectmen held the Public Hearing on this and did the negotiations. It is the Selectmen's responsibility. Why wasn't it specified clearly in the contract when it was negotiated.

Heleen Kurk responded that the contract was written to go into the general fund and even if the contract stated differently it would need to have a vote of Town meeting to spend it, which is what this Article is doing. The Selectmen were advised to do this to assure it would go into Cable.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 25 will appear as written.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration on Article 25 by Mrs. Kurk. Ms. Connor seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 26.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) to be placed in the already existing Employee Retirement Capital Reserve Fund?

Anticipated tax impact = \$0.02

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Wendy Clark moved to amend the Article to read "Employee Retirement and Accruals Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Clow made a second.

Selectman Clark stated that the amendment is to correctly name the Capital Reserve Fund it would be going into, so there is no issue if it is approved.

Selectman Clow stated that we have a lot of unfunded sick time, personal time, etc. and this fund is used to pay out that time in the event an employee retires. This is a liability that the Town needs to fund.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 26 will appear as amended.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration on Article 26. A second was made. Vote: unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 27.

Shall the Town modify the purposes of the existing Capital Reserve Fund established under the provisions of RSA 35:1 and titled the Government Building and Maintenance Fund so as to include the following purposes: maintenance, repairs, capital improvements, and professional studies to/for Town buildings.

(2/3 vote required for passage).

Anticipated tax impact = \$0.00

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Joe Fiala moved the Article as written. Selectman Kurk seconded the motion. Selectman Fiala was recognized to speak to this Article. Mr. Fiala explained that this Article simply restates the purpose of the existing maintenance fund to expand on it so that it can be used for other issues. This fund needs to be used for more than maintenance. The change will allow for this.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 27 will appear as written.

Ms. Connor motioned to restrict reconsideration on Article 26. Mrs. Kurk seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 28

Shall the Town establish an Agricultural Commission pursuant to NH Statute 674:44-e,f, and to consist of five members appointed by the Selectmen for staggered three-year terms? The initial appointments being 1) one-year term, 2) two-year terms, and 2) three-year terms.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Frank Bolton moved the Article as written; Heleen Kurk seconded the motion. The Moderator recognized Mr. Bolton to speak to his motion.

Frank Bolton explained the process this took and he then turned it over to Chris Hague to speak on it. Ms. Hague explained that this was a subcommittee of the Planning Board that worked on this for almost a year. State Law allows creating this Commission and we are just endorsing it indicating how the Commission would be made up. The Committee would look into use of land and protection of agricultural land under RSA #674:44 e,f. They are advisory only. They would work with anything that overlapped with Conservation and Planning. The idea is to make New Hampshire agriculturally viable again.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 28 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 29.

Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a three-year lease with Sugar & Spice Preschool, Inc. for property located at 8 High Street and further, to authorize the Selectmen to renew said lease for periods not in excess of three years each subject to such terms and conditions as the Selectmen deem to be in the best interests of the Town?

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Heleen Kurk moved the Article as written. Selectman Osborne made a second.

The Moderator recognized Ms. Kurk to speak to her motion. Selectman Kurk stated that the Board has entered into a lease with Sugar 'n' Spice Preschool. After the lease was entered into the Board found out that the maximum time a lease could be done was one year without a vote of Town meeting. Sugar 'n' Spice didn't want to put a lot of funds into the building for only a one-year lease. They are looking to do some major repairs.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 29 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 30.

Shall the Town place into Conservation two (2) adjoining landlocked Town-owned parcels adjacent to N.H. Fish and Game Perkin's Pond Wildlife Management Area to be managed by the Weare Conservation Commission for open space and natural resource values and named Mt. Misery Conservation Area? Said parcels containing 25 +/- acres are Map 407 Lot 127 and Map 410 Lot 56.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Steve Najjar moved the Article as written. Heleen Kurk seconded the motion.

Mr. Najjar explained that these two parcels are adjacent to the Fish and Game property and they are currently being held by the Town of Weare. This would just increase the wildlife management area, which is a positive move because these parcels are land locked.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 30 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 31.

Shall the Town place into Town Forest four (4) Town-owned parcels adjacent to existing Ferrin Pond conservation lands to be managed by the Weare Conservation Commission for open space and natural resource values? Said parcels containing 40 +/- acres are Map 407 Lots 156, 157, 160, and 161.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Steve Najjar moved the Article as written. Heleen Kurk seconded the motion.

The Moderator recognized Mr. Najjar to speak to his motion.

Mr. Najjar stated that this Article is very similar to the prior Article.

John McCausland stated that there is a small difference with the two Articles.

The first Article doesn't state Town Forest and this one does. He wanted to know what difference that makes.

Mr. Najjar indicated that putting these parcels into the Town Forest there are RSA guidelines as to what you can and cannot do. When the land is locked it would go to Conservation.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 31 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 32.

Shall the Town place into Town Forest twelve (12) Town-owned parcels for the purpose of conservation adjacent to or near existing Ferrin Pond conservation lands to be managed by the Weare Conservation Commission for open space and natural resource values? Said parcels containing 43 +/- acres are Map 410 Lots 3, 4, 243, 249, 250, 252, 255, 263, 264, 267, 268, and 270.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Steve Najjar moved the Article as written. Heleen Kurk seconded the motion.

Mr. Najjar briefly explained that this article has the same previous comments.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 32 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 33.

Shall the Town place into Conservation two (2) adjoining Town-owned parcels previously donated by Mr. Gordon Russell for the purpose of conservation adjacent to existing Ferrin Pond conservation lands to be managed by the Weare Conservation Commis-

sion for open space and natural resource values? Said parcels containing 6 +/- acres are Map 410 Lots 247 and 248.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Steve Najjar moved the Article as written. A second was made. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Mr. Najjar explained that this parcel was intended to be donated for this purpose stated above but never was. This just clarifies the intent.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 33 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 34.

Shall the Town approve the changing of the name, but not the purpose of, the previously established and currently active Fire and Rescue Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve Fund to “Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve Fund”? The reason for this name change is to be able to better distinguish this fund from the identically named Special Revenue Fund.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Tina Pelletier moved this as written. Heleen Kurk seconded.

Ms. Pelletier explained that basically we have a special revenue account and a capital reserve account with identical names. This change would better clarify the distinction. The intent of this Article will not change.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 34 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 35.

Shall the Town amend Article 33 of the Town Meeting Warrant of 1986 to change the appointing agent of the members of the Weare Economic Development Authority from the Town Moderator to the Board of Selectmen. All other provisions of the original Article will remain the same and in full effect.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Heleen Kurk moved the Article as written. Donna Osborne made a second.

Selectman Kurk stated that this is a housekeeping Article. In 1986 it was first to be done by the Moderator but over time the Board of Selectmen have been doing it. This would authorize the Board to properly make the appointments.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 35 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 36.

Shall the Town of Weare raise and appropriate the sum of Sixteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Nine Dollars (\$16,769.00) to change the part time Building Department Secretary's position to a full time position, beginning on April 4, 2008. This position would be included in the Building Department budget for a full twelve months for future budgeting purposes. Due to continued growth in The Town of Weare, this position would provide full time coverage in the Building Department. Should a raise be approved for all Town employees, this position will be increased by a similar percentage to keep the position on par with the rest of the employees. Estimated tax impact = \$0.019.

By Petition

(Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen.)

Chip Meany moved the Article as written. Heleen Kurk seconded the motion.

Mr. Meany stated that what this Article is doing is increasing the current secretaries hours by two hours a day, 5 days per week, making the position full time. Mr. Meany felt that he can justify the additional 10 hours a week. The largest part of this increase is health insurance. He has approached the Board of Selectmen several times and it was stated to him that due to the economic times, they can't support it at this time.

Frank Campana asked why there are three Petitioned Articles and this one is the only one that has a recommendation. Tom Clow responded this is the only one with a tax impact. Mr. Campana stated he doesn't support the Article. He finds it odd that we elect the Board of Selectmen to run the Town and if they were approached for additional personnel it shouldn't be on a separate Article. He felt it wasn't consistent with the other Fire and Police increased staffing.

Matt Esenwine stated that he somewhat had to agree with Mr. Campana. He's not sure if he supports it or not, but he would like to see a little more backup as to why.

Tom Clow responded why the Board of Selectmen didn't put it on. The Fire and Police Articles came in as separate Articles to begin with. This came in as a request in the proposed Operating Budget. When the request was not going to be supported, that person has a right to get the requisite number of signatures for a Petitioned Article if they want to.

Mr. Meany stated that he wanted to address two things. This goes back to the pay increase Article and he would like everyone to know that he has had 50% of his employee's leave because they were not full time. Second, Wendy Rice was present and prepared with some information if those present wanted to hear it.

Wendy Rice stated that she felt that Mr. Meany addressed most of the concerns, but she feels that the Town of Weare still has business to conduct. The phone still rings and as the population increases they look for our prompt decisions and answers daily.

Joe Fiala stated that you could look at this two ways. He supports this because the Assessing Office can use the additional help as well. There used to be an Assessor and Judy Rogers, now we only have Mrs. Rogers. This increase of 10 hours per week could probably help the Assessing Office out as well.

Rick Townes supports this because when Mr. Meany has to go off to classes, the Secretary would cover for him. He feels it's a little bit of money for the benefit, he is in favor.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 36 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 37.

Shall the Town of Weare vote to amend the current 75% deposit to 50% of the Revenues of all future payments collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:7 (the land use change tax) in the conservation fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, III as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II? To be used for Tax Relief only.

By Petition

Donna Osborne moved the Article as written. Ms. Connor made a second.

Mrs. Osborne stated that sitting on the Board they have trouble with revenue. She would like to see this 50/50 it is only 25% more and she felt it was not too much to ask. This would be for tax relief only.

Steve Najjar stated this is the wrong place for tax relief. Conserving land is the only thing that can be done to keep taxes down. This Article would take away the opportunity when land is available to purchase it. This Article would mitigate land that is in the process of being developed. He felt it was short sighted and the committee has battered it around to move it to 100%.

Steve Najjar moved to amend the percentage to 100% and removed the last sentence regarding tax relief. A second was made.

Chris Hague stated that if the Zoning Amendment to 27.3.11 passes the Town would need money for Conservation Land. If we reduce the amount of money we will not be able to carry out some of the terms and conditions that are written into the Planning Board proposals.

Rick Townes stated that Mr. Najjar beat him to the punch. He is not in favor of the 100%. He was going to suggest that the 50% be used for the ball fields in Town.

Forrest Esenwine stated that this issue is not why he got in line. He doesn't know but he thought that Mr. Townes idea has some merit but he also thinks that Mr. Najjar's does too.

Matt Esenwine stated that he is all for conserving land by agreeing to the amendment are we going to be completely negating the purpose of this Article. He felt that changing the wording is working against the will of those who put this forward. He is not in favor of negating it and given the petitioners credit for bringing it forward.

Moderator Buono stated that Town Counsel has determined that Article % can be changed but not to allocate it for ball fields.

Eldon Townes stated that he will soon have to pay a current use penalty and he would like to see the 50% not 100%.

George Malette stated that the statute here is direct and very specific. He is not in favor of 100% and felt that it should be kept at the existing 75%.

Del Rice, has been associated with Ducks Unlimited over the years and he is supportive but he felt that rather than trying to find creative ways to do ball fields to reach out to some of these organizations for that assistance.

Dick Ludders stated that he is in favor of the amendment.

Frank Bolton asked if there was any tax impact to this amendment. Tom Clow responded yes. Mr. Bolton asked if you increase the percentage, in this case why is there a tax impact. Moderator Buono responded that if you increase the percentages to 100% then you would have to raise the 25% that you would not be getting that you are now getting. Mr. Bolton stated that he felt that there are a couple of worthwhile things here, playing fields and conserving land. The question is what do we value most for the children. Both certainly enhance the lives of our children. He is in favor of the increase.

John McCausland supports the 100% increase.

John Flanders asked for clarification. He spoke in favor of the 100% of the Article. He praised the WCC for what they have done to date.

Richard Butt asked for clarification, if Mrs. Osborne was speaking for the Board or as a citizen. Mrs. Osborne responded, a citizen. Mr. Butt also pointed out that this increase

would have a tax impact and he was wondering if the Board could give that. The Board was going to work on that figure.

John Dowst asked to call the question, Forrest Esenwine seconded the motion.

Moderator Buono stated that there was a gentleman in line so she will allow him to speak and then call the question.

Loren Clement stated that one thing that comes to mind to him is that he is going to be paying the tax and he feels that the Conservation Commission is very important and should be fortunate they get 75%. If the additional 25% gets back to the general fund that would help to pay for other expenses.

Moderator Buono stated that a paper ballot was requested for this vote. Everyone present had to go back through and get a ballot that consisted of a paper that said yes or no. You were to circle the appropriate answer, yes if you are in favor of the 100% and no if you are not. The ballots will then be dropped into the ballot box to be counted.

While the ballots were being counted, Moderator Buono informed those present that we will continue to the next Article.

The results of the ballot voting is as follows:

Yes: 43 No: 28 therefore the amendment passes.

Forrest Esenwine moved to further amend Article 37 by removing the 5th and 6th words. A second was made.

Jon Dowst asked if before the vote is taken could we ask Town Counsel if that is necessary. Town Counsel responded, no it is not.

George Malette asked if the last sentence was removed. The Moderator replied yes.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 37 will appear as amended.

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration on Article 37. A second was made. Vote: unanimous in favor.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 38

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:62 for the property tax exemption on real property equipped with solar energy systems, which exemption shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of the solar energy

systems. In order to show Weare's support for the use of renewable energy, the following Warrant Article proposes to offer a partial tax exemption for those Weare taxpayers who utilize a solar energy system. The intent of the tax exemption is to alleviate the additional tax burden created by installing a solar energy system. Solar energy systems are expensive, and people who make the decision to install are primarily motivated by the larger social issue of energy consumption. Similar tax exemptions already exist in 62 Towns in New Hampshire. If instituted, the positive tax implication on each taxpayer in Weare will be about 1/100 of 1%.

By Petition

George Malette moved the Article as written. A second was made. Vote: unanimous vote in favor.

Mr. Malette stated that the idea is to promote alternative energy.

Forrest Esenwine stated that it just seems that this one is more item that people can take advantage of. What's next a credit for a hybrid car?

George Malette responded this is allowed per statute but in order to be able to take advantage of this it needs a vote of Town meeting. Not all Towns have this provision only 62 Towns currently do.

Steve Najjar wanted to ask Mr. Malette for clarification on this.

Mr. Malette stated that the statute is very clear and passive energy doesn't come up in this only active.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 38 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 39

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our Senator and our governor: Resolved: We the citizens of Weare, NH believe in a New Hampshire that is just and fair. The property tax has become unjust and unfair. State Leaders who take a pledge for no new taxes perpetuate higher and higher property taxes. We call on our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor to reject the "pledge", have an open discussion covering all options, and adopt a revenue system that lowers property taxes.

By Petition

Will Ottery moved the Article as written. A second was made.

Will Ottery stated that this was set up by the Granite State Taxpayers Coalition. This Article asks the State leaders to reject the pledge of no new taxes and adopt another revenue system to help lower the property taxes.

Neal Kurk stated that this Article is being placed on Warrants throughout the State. This means that if you are in favor of an income tax you vote in favor of this Article.

Matt Esenwine stated that he could appreciate where the genesis for this idea came about but he feels it is focusing on the wrong solution to the problem.

Mr. Ottery stated he is not in favor if any new tax. This is not promoting any particular tax.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Article 39 will appear as written.

The Moderator read ARTICLE 40

To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting?

Selectman Clow stated if all Articles are supported it would be \$3.57.

Tom Clow stated that if he is in this position next year he will have a state of the union address. He would like to take a minute to answer Frank Campana's question regarding tax impact for the Warrant. The Town portion of the tax rate is currently \$2.76 per \$1,000 of assessment. If all Articles were to pass exclusive of the bond issues, it would be \$3.50 per \$1,000 assessment. The reason the Bond Articles were not included is because the bond payments would not start until 2009. Then if you were to include the Fire Department and Police Department it would add an additional 23.9 cents, call it 24 cents.

Neal Kurk wanted to take a moment to thank the Board of Selectmen for their service this year. He also thanked Moderator Buono for her role in today's meeting.

Jerry Little inquired as to when the Zoning Amendments would be discussed.

Mr. Clow stated that the Public Hearing on the amendments occurred in January. Frank Bolton stated that there were three Public Hearings prior to January on these items.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made and seconded to adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Evelyn M. Connor
Town Clerk

